



## LOS ANGELES FOSTER CARE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

The Los Angeles Foster Care Awareness Campaign, sponsored by a roundtable of advocacy, governmental, judicial, and public interest organizations, brings public attention to the tremendous need for increased community support for the nearly 30,000 youth in the Los Angeles foster care system. The Campaign is held annually in the month of May, coinciding with National Foster Care Month.

Highlights of the 2005 Awareness Campaign include nomination and recognition of “foster care heroes,” who will be acknowledged publicly and honored by the Board of Supervisors. These heroes exemplify the best of our foster care system – whether through working for systemic reform, advocating on behalf of foster children, providing direct assistance to youth in need, or preserving and attaining success even in the face of difficult odds.

Other key events of this year’s month-long campaign include:

- \* An art and essay contest in which foster youth provide a window into their experiences in our child welfare system. Selected youth participate in art and writing workshops with acclaimed professionals. Art and writing produced by these youth will be exhibited and disseminated within our community.
- \* A first-ever Los Angeles Healthcare Summit bringing together healthcare providers, child welfare officials, the judiciary, and other stakeholders to find new solutions aimed at addressing the health needs and concerns of foster youth.
- \* A groundbreaking Mentoring Summit that will assemble a variety of community, governmental, faith-based, judicial, and advocacy organizations to seek ways to ensure that no child leaves foster care without having made a personal connection with a stable adult to call upon for help.
- \* Outreach to the faith-based community through sermons, speakers, and presentations to involve congregations across Los Angeles County in better supporting the foster care system.
- \* A Housing Expo with presentations and workshops to assist advocates and emancipating youth in finding appropriate housing
- \* Countywide distribution of posters and flyers detailing how individuals in our community can engage and get involved in a variety of activities to “change the life” of a foster child.

The Los Angeles Foster Care Awareness Campaign is spearheaded by the Children’s Law Center of Los Angeles; other sponsors and supporting organizations include: The Alliance for Children’s Rights, the Association of Community Human Service Agencies, Casey Family Programs, Court Appointed Special Advocates of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Children’s Planning Council, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the Los Angeles County Commission for Children and Families, the Los Angeles County Counsel Law Center, and United Friends of the Children. Department of Children and Family Services, Los Angeles Superior Court, Juvenile Division, Public